



## Summer Trail Access and Condition Update November 23<sup>rd</sup> – December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Autumn Trail Highlights

- At the time of this writing, there is snow above approximately 5500 feet. Patchy snow and ice may be found as low as 4500 ft. No major mountain snow is in the forecast. Although nearly all trails were cleared of downfall earlier in the summer, recent reports indicate light to moderate downfall on some trails. See inside for more details.
- The limited entry Central Cascade Wilderness permit system ended on September 24<sup>th</sup>. No permits are required for Wilderness access at this time.
- Temporary closure on sections of Storm King and Phil's Trails. See inside for more details.
- Cascade Lakes Highway (at West Village), Paulina Lake Road, Highway 242 and Forest Road 370 are all CLOSED for the winter season. See end of this report for more information.
- Cascade Lakes Welcome Station is closed until further notice. Lava River Cave and Lava Lands Visitor Center are both closed for the season.
- Sno-Park permits are required in designated Sn-Parks from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>.



Fresh snow and freshly downed trees on a trail near Todd Lake. Weather will be mixed for the foreseeable future, with rain and snow in the mountains. Trail users should anticipate potential downfall.



Firewood at Winter Trail shelters is provided through the work of local volunteer organizations and the FS. The shelters are for day use only, and the firewood is for warming fires in the wood stove. Please enjoy and respect these buildings.



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## **WILDERNESS PERMITS:**

The 2021 Central Cascade Wilderness permit season is over. More information about the program is below.

Beginning in summer of 2021, Wilderness permits were required at 19 trailheads for day use and all trailheads for overnight use in the Mt Jefferson, Mt Washington and Three Sisters wildernesses from **May 28 to September 24, 2021**. Annually, the permit season will begin the Friday before Memorial Day and end the last Friday in September. To learn more about the Wilderness Permit program, go here:

[Willamette National Forest - Home \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/willamette-national-forest)

### **How do I get a permit?**

Permit reservations can be made through **recreation.gov**, either online or over the phone. Go to:

[Recreation.gov - Camping, Cabins, RVs, Permits, Passes & More](https://www.recreation.gov/camping/cabins/rvs/permits/passes-more)

Then put "Central Cascades Wilderness" in the search and all options will show.

Permit reservations opened on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Every year the reservation period will open on the first Tuesday in April. Most permits, 50-80%, only become available 7 days prior to the hike.

## **Deschutes National Forest Summer Trail Conditions**

**Last Updated: November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

**\*\*Conditions subject to change without notice and at whim of nature.\*\***

**\*\*ALL SUMMER TRAILS ARE UNDER SNOW/INACCESSIBLE DUE TO ROAD CLOSURES, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED BELOW\*\***

### **Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District**

#### **❖ Phil's Area Trails – Snow free, clear.**

The following temporary trail closures are in effect to protect the public's safety as mastication of brush and small trees occurs:

- Storm King Trail between the junction with Phil's Trail and Grand Slam Trail.
- Phil's Trail between the 4601-336 Road and the 300 Road. Downhill riders can reroute around the Phil's Trail closure by following the 4601-336 to the east and then taking the 300 road to the north to its intersection with Phil's trail.

Trails will be closed weekly every Monday at 12 a.m. to Friday at 3:00pm. Trails will be open Saturdays, Sundays, and all Federal Holidays. The trails will reopen when the work is completed.

E-Bikes are NOT allowed on any non-motorized trails.

For more information on COTA, go to: <http://cotamtb.com/>

#### **❖ Tumalo Falls Area – Road to trailhead open for the summer season. Extremely crowded. Farewell, Mrazek, North Fork, Bridge Creek and Swampy Lakes all have possible snow and blowdown.**



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Stock, dogs, bikes and camping are all prohibited inside the Bend Municipal Watershed. On North Fork Trail, mountain bikes are limited to uphill riding only.

Due to very limited parking and high use, there is a 27' vehicle length limit at Tumalo Falls TH. Even then, the parking area fills early and can often remain at overflow capacity on busy days. Please pay close attention to "NO PARKING" signs on one side of the entrance road. These sections of roadway must remain open to avoid traffic hazards and permit larger emergency vehicle access.

- ❖ **Deschutes River Trail** – Snow free and clear.  
Northwest Forest Passes are required for parking in posted locations.
- ❖ **Sunriver, 41 Road, and Welcome Station Area** – COD, Catch and Release, Lower Tyler's, Storm King and Roundabout all snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Sun Lava Paved Path** between Sunriver, Benham East and Lava Lands (Trailhead access points at south end of Lava Lands parking lot, Benham East or Circle 7 in Sunriver). Snow free and clear. Pine needles may exist on surface. Heavy use on weekends.
- ❖ **Lava Lands Trails** – Parking lot repaving has been completed and parking areas are open. Visitor Center closed for the season.
- ❖ **Tumalo Creek 2 Trail** – Snow free and clear. Hiker only.
- ❖ **Wanoga Area** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Swampy Lakes** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Corral Swamp** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Cultus Lk and Winopee** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Many Lakes** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Lemish Lake/Charlton** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Osprey Point** – Unknown.
- ❖ **Fall River** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **South/North Twin Lakes** – Unknown.
- ❖ **Horse Butte to Swamp Wells area trails** – Snow free and clear on trails below Swamp Wells Horse Camp. Light blowdown and possible snow above Swamp Wells Horse Camp.
- ❖ **Peter Skene Ogden** – Snow free on lower portions. Snowy conditions getting close to Paulina Lake. Possible downfall.



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- ❖ **Lava Cast Forest** – Unknown but likely snow free and clear. NWFP required!
- ❖ **Hoffman Island** – Unknown but likely snow free and clear.

## Sisters Ranger District:

- ❖ **Black Butte** – Clear of downfall with snow on upper portion. Trail may be difficult to follow near the summit.
- ❖ **Metolius River Trails** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Suttle Lake** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Lake Creek** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Whychus Creek** – Snow free and clear. Temporary closure of trailhead. Follow signs to alternate parking area. **Please, stay on the main designated trail and avoid using posted and closed social trails in restoration sections.**
- ❖ **Whychus Overlook** (barrier free, closed to stock and bikes) – Snow free and clear. Please stay on designated trails. Enjoy the newly constructed vault toilet!
- ❖ **Peterson Ridge Trails** – Snow free and clear. Check out the new trailhead on FR 16!
- ❖ **Metolius-Windigo** – Snow on high elevation portions. Cleared earlier this summer but possible downfall.
- ❖ **Tam Rim/Three Creeks Area** – Deep snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **PCT** – Snow with possible downfall. Highway 242 CLOSED for the winter season.
- ❖ **Scott Pass/Millican Crater** – Snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Black Crater** – Snow with possible downfall. Highway 242 CLOSED for the winter season.
- ❖ **Chush Falls** – Possible snow and possible downfall.
- ❖ **Pole Creek/Green Lakes/Park Meadow/Camp Lake/DeMaris Lake** – On all trails, snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Head of Jack Creek** – Snow free with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Jefferson Lake** – Snow free on lower portion with snow possible above 4500 ft. Possible downfall.
- ❖ **Cabot Lake** – Patchy snow with possible downfall. Due to a couple tricky trees on the steep slope above Carl Lake, stock NOT RECOMMENDED beyond Carl Lake.
- ❖ **Rockpile Lake** – Patchy snow with possible downfall. Heavy brush may be difficult for pack animals.
- ❖ **Jack Lake TH** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Round Lake** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **MINTO LAKE, BRUSH CREEK AND SUGAR PINE RIDGE TRAILS ARE ALL IMPASSIBLE DUE TO BRUSH, HEAVY DOWNFALL AND EROSION.**



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### Crescent Ranger District:

- ❖ **PCT** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Rosary** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Maiden Peak/Maiden Lake** – Maiden Peak snow with possible downfall. Maiden Lake patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Moore Creek** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Yoran Lake** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Whitefish Creek** – On southern end, snow free and clear on low elevation portions. From Trapper Creek trailhead, cleared almost to Diamond View Lake, or about 1.25 miles from junction with Crater Butte. Snow likely above 4500 ft.
- ❖ **Pretty Lake/Fawn Lake** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Oldenberg** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Summit Lake** – Patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Meek Lake** – Patchy snow with possible downfall. Five good sized trees across trail just before junction with Summit Lake Trail.
- ❖ **Windy Lakes** – Possible snow and possible downfall.
- ❖ **Metolius-Windigo** – Possible snow and possible downfall.

### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SPECIAL TRAIL EVENTS:

None that I'm aware of.

### SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES/OPENINGS:

Hwy 46 (Cascade Lakes Highway)	CLOSED at West Village.
FR 370	CLOSED for the winter season.
Tumalo Falls Road (FR 4603)	OPEN until season ending event.
FR 21 (Paulina Lake Road)	CLOSED at Ten Mile SnoPark.
Hwy 242	CLOSED for the winter season.
FR 16	OPEN until season ending event.



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FR 60	OPEN until season ending event.
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## **“LEAVE NO TRACE” REMINDER:**

PLEASE, PRACTICE THE SEVEN LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPALS:

**Plan Ahead and Prepare**

**Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**

**Dispose of Waste Properly**

**Leave What You Find**

**Minimize Campfire Impacts**

**Respect Wildlife**

**Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

For details on the 7 LNT Principals: <http://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>

## **TEN ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS:**

For details on the “Ten Essential **Systems**”:

[http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/ten+essentials.html?s\\_kwcid=TC|13029|ten%20essentials||S|p|7499840765&cm\\_mmc=ps\\_google\\_CH- -Category%20-%20Camp%2fHike- -Camping%2fHiking\\_GeneralTerms\\_Essentials- -ten%20essentials&gclid=CNq\\_h8Xbsq4CFQN8hwodYhH-PQ](http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/ten+essentials.html?s_kwcid=TC|13029|ten%20essentials||S|p|7499840765&cm_mmc=ps_google_CH- -Category%20-%20Camp%2fHike- -Camping%2fHiking_GeneralTerms_Essentials- -ten%20essentials&gclid=CNq_h8Xbsq4CFQN8hwodYhH-PQ)

**For further information on Deschutes National Forest winter or summer trails, please call:**

Deschutes National Forest Headquarters: (541) 383-5300

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District: (541) 383-4000

Sisters Ranger District: (541) 549-7700

Crescent Ranger District: (541) 433-3200

Find this weekly trail access and condition report on the Deschutes National Forest Website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/home/?cid=stelprdb5347630>

**Other trail access and conditions information can be found at:**

<https://bendtrails.org/>

Prineville BLM: <https://www.blm.gov/tag/prineville-district-office>